

Washington - Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) today announced a \$350,000 future federal investment in local law enforcement assistance. The federal funds were earmarked in the \$53.6 billion Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill which passed by a vote of 281 to 142. This funding is contingent upon passage in the U.S. Senate and a signature by the President.

The funding will help reverse years of drastic cuts. From 2001-2006 funding for local law enforcement assistance was slashed by 42-percent, from \$4.4 billion to \$2.5 billion. The following Ohio organizations and communities are slated to benefit:

Meigs County Sheriff Department-Meigs County, Ohio-\$50,000

The Meigs County Sheriff's Office serves 24,000 people in Meigs County and because of recent budget cuts the office has outdated equipment that desperately needs replacement. The office is in need of bullet proof vests, digital cameras for investigations, pagers to contact officers, tasers for officer and community protection, computers for reports, and radar units for road officers.

Washington County Sheriff Department-Washington County, Ohio-\$25,000

Since purchasing in-car camera systems in the mid 1990s, Washington County's equipment has fallen into a state of disrepair. It often costs more to repair than to replace. Cameras are a vital tool in law enforcement, especially in the fields of evidence collection and officer safety. The department's cameras will be replaced. The Washington County Sheriff's Office Criminal Division has twenty-one officers who patrol over 641 square miles.

Monroe County Sheriff Department-Monroe County, Ohio-\$25,000

The Monroe County Sheriff's Department needs at least four new pieces of equipment in order to bring its force up to others in the area. The department plans to purchase in-car digital eyewitness video systems and radar units.

Lawrence County Sheriff Department-Lawrence County, Ohio-\$80,000

The Lawrence County Sheriff's Office protects approximately 62,000 people in a 458 square mile radius and is in need of lap tops, bullet proof vests, cameras, and radios.

Gallia County Sheriff Department-Gallia County, Ohio-\$50,000

The Gallia County Sheriff's Department serves approximately 33,000 people. The department needs mobile radios, safety vests and computer equipment for officers.

Jefferson County Sheriff Department-Jefferson County, Ohio-\$80,000

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office needs laptop computers for mobile command field units to aid with communication.

City of Steubenville MLK Recreation Center-Jefferson County, Ohio-\$40,000

The City of Steubenville has struggled to provide their at risk youth programs for many years. The city has expressed interest in targeting their programs, especially summer programs to

teens at risk. In order to do this they require funding to set up a solid program.

"For too long our local law enforcement officers have been making do with too little," Wilson said. "I'm proud to be a part of a Congress that's reversing that trend. I know this funding is critical to the safety and well-being of our families, communities and neighborhoods."

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